

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 LAB-04 EB-08 SIL-01 COME-00 /086 W
-----027416 312029Z /75
R 301957Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7234
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS SHUM, ELAB, PINT, AR
SUBJECT TRANSFER OF MRS PERON AND OTHER RECENT DISPOSITIONS

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REPORTS A STRING OF LARGELY UNCONNECTED
GOA ACTIONS AFFECTING POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING
THE TRANSFER OF MRS PERON TO A MORE COMFORTABLE PLACE OF
DETENTION AND THE CONDITIONAL LIBERTY OF MEMBERS OF HER
DEPOSED GOVERNMENT, THE RECENT DETENTION OF LABOR LEADERS
IN CORDOBA FOR EXCEEDING CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON UNION
ACTIVITY AND THE POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF POLITICIANS FOR
ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. MRS PERON'S TRANSFER TO
HOUSE ARREST AND THE CONDITIONAL LIBERTY GRANTED OTHER
PERONIST LEADERS LOOK LIKE AN EFFORT TO MOVE THINGS
TOWARD A CONCLUSION ON THAT LEGAL FRONT. THE POSSIBLE
PROSECUTION OF THE POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVISTS SUGGESTS
THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET READY FOR A "POLITICAL DIALOGUE."
END SUMMARY.

1. BY DECISION OF THE MILITARY JUNTA, EX-PRESIDENT
MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON WAS TRANSFERRED
AUGUST 26 FROM THE NAVAL BASE IN AZUL TO THE PERON
COUNTRY ESTATE IN SAN VICENTE SOME 50 KILOMETERS SOUTH
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OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES. MRS PERON REMAINS
DETAINED INCOMMUNICADO (EXCEPT FOR ACCESS TO HER
LAWYER) AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE JUNTA, AND CANNOT
LEAVE THE ESTATE. IN EFFECT, SHE CONTINUES UNDER
HOUSE ARREST, AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES WHICH ARE
BEING BROUGHT AGAINST HER OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF
THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE JUNTA REPORTEDLY HAS GRANTED CONDITIONAL LIBERTY TO A DOZEN OR SO OFFICIALS OF THE DEPOSED PERONIST GOVERNMENT ALSO ENCOMPASSED UNDER THE ACT OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING EX-GOVERNOR CARLOS MENEM AND CONSTRUCTION UNION LEADER ROGELIO PAPAGNO. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER CONCERNING THE TERMS OF THEIR DISPOSITIONS WHEN THEY BECOME CLARIFIED. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT EXTRADE UNION BOSS LORENZO MIGUEL WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO HIS RESIDENCE SEPTEMBER 10 TO FINISH OUT THE REST OF A 3-YEAR JUNTA-IMPOSED SENTENCE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

3. FOUR OF FIVE ORTHODOX PERONIST UNION LEADERS IN CORDOBA JAILED LAST WEEK WERE RELEASED AUGUST 28, ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES. REPORTEDLY THE REASON FOR THEIR ARREST WAS A CABLE THEY SENT TO THE LABOR MINISTRY IN THE NAME OF ALL THE WORKERS IN CORDOBA COMPLAINING ABOUT MANAGERIAL WAGE ABUSES. THE RIGHT TO ISSUE SUCH COLLECTIVE PETITIONS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TOOK POWER TWO AND ON HALF YEARS AGO. THE FOUR RELEASED LEADERS ARE ALEJO SIMO (METAL WORKERS), ALFREDO REJAS (RESTAURANT WORKERS) RAUL SUAREZ (CARPENTERS) AND JOSE RODRIGUEZ (RADIO TELEGRAPHISTS). THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADER REMAINING IN JAIL IS SOFT DRINK UNION LEADER ELIO LUMELLO WHOSE ARREST MAY BE RELATED TO ACTIVITIES GOING BACK TO HIS DAYS AS A NATIONAL DEPUTY BEFORE THE COUP. LUMELLO'S WIFE HAS PRESENTED A HABEAS CORPUS REQUEST.

4. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS JOSE ANTONIO ALLENDE, FRANCISCO CERRO, ENRIQUE DE VEDIA AND MARTIN DIP HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE LAWS SUSPENDING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES -- FOLLOWING A MEETING HELD EARLIER IN THE MONTH WHICH RESULTED IN A DECISION TO MERGE TWO SPLINTER GROUPS INTO ONE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION. THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE A FEREAL JUDGE WHO MUST DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR ACTION VIOLATES THE LAWS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

5. A FEDERAL JUDGE HAS ALSO SUMMONED EX-PRESIDENT ARTURO FRONDIZI AND 28 OTHER BIG NAME POLITICIANS TO MAKE A FORMAL STATEMENT CONCERNING A PERONIST-INSPIRED DECLARATION WHICH THE EX-POLITICAL LEADERS WIGNED A WEEK AGO ENTITLED, "TO THE ARMED FORCES GOVERNMENT AND THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE". AMONG THE

OTHER POLITICIANS ACCUSED BY THE FEDERAL POLICE
WITH VIOLATING THE DECREE LAW (LAW 21,323) SUSPENDING
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT
VICENTE SOLANO LIMA (POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY),
PERONISTS FELIPE BITTEL, ELOY PROSPERO CAMUS,
ROBERTO ARES, ANGEL ROBLEDO, MANUEL DE ANCHORENA
AND DANIEL ADROGUE AND FRONDIZI'S CLOSE ASSOCIATE
ROGELIO FRIGERIO -- ALL MEMBERS OF THE FREJULI
ALLIANCE THAT TOOK THE PERONISTS TO POWER IN 1973.
THE SIGNED POLITICAL STATEMENT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED
IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS CALLED FOR "SELF-CRITICISM
ON THE PART OF MILITARY MEN AND CIVILIANS", WITH A
VIEW TO RESTORING PEACE AND FULL PERSONAL RIGHTS AND
GUARANTEES. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SIGNERS OF THIS
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DECLARATION ALSO CALLED FOR MRS PERON'S FREEDOM
ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT SHOW UP IN THE VERSION WHICH
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. ICRP POLITICIANS DID
NOT SIGN THE DECLARATION PRESUMABLY FOR THIS REASON.

6. COMMENT: THE JUNTA DECISION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS
ENCOMPASSTED UNDER THE INSTITUTIONAL ACT -- IN EFFECT
AN ACT OF REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE -- ARE SUPPOSED TO
REPRESENT A STEP TOWARDS A DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF
THESE CASES. THE CORRESPONDING DECREE HAS NOT BEEN
PUBLISHED YET, SO WE DO NOT HAVE THE PRECISE TERMS
RELATING TO EACH OF THE INDIVIDUALS.

7. THE LATEST POLICE AND JUDICIAL ACTIONS INITIATED
AGAINST CONFUSED STATE OF PLAY WITH REGARD TO THE
VIDELA-VIOLA CALL FOR A "POLITICAL DIALOGUE."
ACCORDING TO VIDELA'S ORIGINAL PLANS, THE "DIALOGUE"
WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN IN FULL SWING BEGINNING
WITH THE "SECOND STAGE" OF THE NATIONAL REORGANIZATION
PROCESS (WHICH BEGAN AUGUST 1). HOWEVER, THE POLICE
AND JUDICIAL ACTIONS SUGGEST THAT THERE IS STILL A
LACK OF CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WITH RESPECT
TO THIS OBJECTIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, DETENTION, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS06768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0650
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978085/aaaaadvcl
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0df26f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1698111
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF MRS PERON AND OTHER RECENT DISPOSITIONS SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REPORTS A STRING OF LARGELY UNCONNECTED GOA ACTIONS AFFECTING POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PINT, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0df26f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014